

AN  
ABSTRACT  
OF THE  
Consultations and Debates,  
Between the  
French King  
AND HIS  
COUNCIL,  
Concerning the NEW  
Coyn and Coynage  
That is Intended to be Made in  
ENGLAND.

Wherein is CONTAIN'D,  
The Political *Designs*, and Great *Elopes*, the French King  
and His Council have to Ruin the ENGLISH NATION,  
in Divesting and Draining them of their NEW COYN as  
soon as Coyn'd.

---

Privately sent by a Friend of the Confederates from the French Court,  
to his Brother at Brussels, &c.

---

L O N D O N:  
Printed, *John Dorr*. MDCXCV.

NZ  
Z6

NZ  
Z695ab

Eme

*An Abstract of the Consultations and  
Debates between the French KING  
and His Council, concerning the New  
Coyn and Coynage that is intended  
to be Made in ENGLAND.*

*Privately sent by a Friend of the Confederates from the French  
Court, to his Brother at Brussels, &c.*

*Paris Decemb. 12th, 1695.*

Dear Brother,

**H**ERE is a most Horrid Design laid, which contains  
the greatest piece of Policy that ever was contriv'd in  
Europe, which, if it go on, and be executed, will cer-  
tainly Ruin the English People before they perceive it; for, if  
this Design takes effect, it will inevitably bring them to Disorder  
and Destruction in a little time; and I cannot foresee how the  
People of England can possibly subsist, or preserve their Govern-  
ment Three Years longer, without being subject to the Power of  
France, if this Design be accomplish'd: And if the English go  
down, all the rest of the Confederacy must tamely submit to the  
French Yoke, and leave the French King to Triumph as he  
pleaseth, who will certainly trample upon all the Princes of Europe,  
if he be not prevented in this Design; so that You and I, with  
all the Families of our Relations, shall certainly be Ruined, as  
well as the rest: Therefore I desire You, with all the Expedition

*that may be, to transmit this Abstract of the Debates and Consultations of the French King and His Council, by the First Post to England, and cause it to be Publish'd there, with all the Expedition that may be, to give the Parliament, and People of England, sufficient Notice thereof; whereby they may take such Methods concerning their Coyn, as may prevent this Design now laid by the French King, and His Ministers of State; which is as followeth.*

### French King.

*My Lords,*

**I** Have just now Received a *Letter of Advice* from King James, by which it appears, The *Parliament of England* are very Busie about the *Alteration of their Coyn*; concerning which, You know, We have had many *Debates in Council* for Three Months past, to try if any *Project* could be fram'd, or a Feasible way found, to drain the *English* of their *Money*, as fast as it shall be *New Coyned*; for, as I have often told some of You, if this be possible to be done, then I doubt not but to Conquer them, and the rest of my Enemies, without Fighting either by *Land* or *Sea*: And in regard You have had sufficient Time to consider upon this Project, since our last *Debate* of this Affair, I desire to hear what *Methods* You have to propose, and how it may be effected. —

### First Minister of State.

*May it please Your Majesty,* We have had many Conferences upon this Subject, and by the Progress we have made, we find it is practicable, and easie to be done, and with a very reasonable Charge to Your Majesty; therefore we have digested and framed the *Methods* and *Ways* of doing it, and doubt not but Your Majesty will approve thereof, being so contriv'd, that  
if



if the *Parliament of England* pass a Vote, for *Coyning* their *New Money* of the same *Weight* and *Fineness* it formerly was, and pass for no more than their *Mill'd Money* did, (viz.) 464 Grains, or a *Crown Piece* of that *Weight*, for *Five Shillings*, as it did of late; Then we can and do assure Your Majesty, That if the *English Coyn Six Millions of New Money*, we can easily make You Master of *Five Millions* of it in *Fifteen Months*, — accounted from that time they begin to *Coyne* it.

**French King.**

Oh Heavens! Is this possible?

**Second Minister of State.**

Your Majesty may assure Your Self, It is possible, and the most easie to effect of all *Projects* that have been undertaken by any of Your *Ministers* since the *War* began. — There is nothing can prevent Us from Bringing their *Money* from *England* as fast as they *Coyne* it, provided this *Parliament* pass a Vote for *Coyning* it of the same *Weight* and *Purity*, and Order their *Shillings*, *half-Crowns* and *Crowns* to pass as they formerly did, Your Majesty may then rely upon it, if they *Coyne Ten Millions* of such *Money* from their *Clipp'd Money* and *Plate*, we have found and contriv'd infallible Ways and Means to bring *Nine Millions* of it away from thence in *Two Years Time*.

**French King, pointing at the Fourth Minister of State.**

If this be possible to be done, I'll spare no Cost to effect it; for since he first mentioned it, — I have often thought some *Lucky Method* might be found, to do me more Service this way, than all my *Forces* can by *Sea* or *Land*.

## Third Minister of State.

'Tis very true, and Our Advice is, — That Your Majesty will admit us to Imploy to the Value of 250000 in *English Money* in such Ways as we have contriv'd for the Bringing over of their *Coyn*, whereby we'll engage totally to strip and divest them of it; and that Your Majesty will spare the Value thereof in the Publick Charge of Your Army, and Marine Affairs; so that, by consequence, it will Cost You nothing, if Your Majesty saves as much in other Expences, as shall be laid out upon this: And though we may imploy to the Value of so much in *English Money* to effect it, nevertheless, we doubt not but to Return You *Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds* more, besides your Principal; and question not but to make You Master of Nine Parts in Ten, of what-ever they *Coyn*, in less than Two Years Time; which being done, What *Army* can they bring into the *Field*? or, What *Fleet* can they fit out to *Sea*? Must not Your Most *Christian Majesty* Remain Master of Both? Will not the *Confederacy* then be broke, and leave Your Majesty to Give *Laws*, and to Govern *Europe*? Who, or what can, or shall resist You, when this is done?

## French King.

As I said before, I'll spare no Cost to effect it: But, How shall it be done? My Lord, I never knew a Project of Yours fail, if You can make this appear, I'll gratifie Your Demands in all things, and own Your Service for ever.

## Fourth Minister of State.

In all Dutiful Submission, I humbly inform Your most *Christian Majesty*, — That we have settled Forty Eight Correspondents Abroad, All which are to Merchandize in the Places following for Us, upon Your Majesty's Account.

(viz.)

( *Viz.* )

2 at *Smirna.*  
 2 at *Venice.*  
 2 at *Leghorn.*  
 2 at *Genoa.*  
 2 at *Alicant.*  
 2 at *Maliga.*  
 4 at *Cadix.*  
 4 at *Lisbon.*  
 2 at *O Porto.*

---

 22

2 at *Dunkirk.*  
 2 at *Ostend.*  
 3 at *Rotterdam.*  
 4 at *Amsterdam.*  
 2 at *Hamborough.*  
 2 at *Brechmen.*  
 4 in *Norway.*  
 4 in *Denmark.*  
 2 at *Stockholm.*  
 1 at *Arch-Angel.*

---

 26

Who are to Receive such Goods from *England*, as shall be sent from thence, by our Agents there, to each and every of these respective Places; and to Return such Goods back for *England*, by the same Ships as we shall direct.

We have also taken Care to provide Forty Four Correspondents in the following Places of *England*, which will be all fix'd in their several Stations before the *New Coyned Money* comes forth, ( *viz.* )

Two *Merchants*, with One *Melter*, at *New-Castle* and *Durham*; One *Merchant*, and a *Melter*, at *Stockton* and *Tarm*; Four *Merchants* at *Hull* and *Tork*, with One *Melter*; One *Merchant* at *Boston*; One at *Yarmouth*, and a *Melter*; Twelve *Merchants* in *London*, and Five *Melters*; Two *Merchants*



chants at *Exeter*, One at *Topsam*, One at *Barnstable* and *Biddisford*, with One *Melter* ; One *Merchant* at *Plimouth*, One at *Truro*, One at *Falmouth*, One for *Saint Ives* and *Padstow*, with One *Melter* ; at *Bristol* Three *Merchants* and a *Melter* : And for the In-land Towns, and Trading Countries, we have appointed Twenty Four other *Correspondents* to remain there till this Business is dispatch'd, to whom our *Agents* in *London* will remit *Guineas* from thence, at the Current Price they go for there, let that be more or less ( as Opportunity offers ) to every County of *England*, by the *Carriers* of those Countries ; where our *Agents* are to Change the *Guineas* for *New Coynd Money* ; and as each of them gathers up *One Hundred, Two Hundred, Three Hundred, Four Hundred or Five Hundred Pounds* a Week, more or less, in every County, of the *New Coynd*, they are to send it by the same *Carriers*, pack'd up in some of that County Goods, to their respective *Correspondents* in *London*, where it is to be *Melted down* with the rest Collected there, and thereabouts : And such *Silver* as is to be pack'd up in any sorts of *Bale Goods*, is ordered to be Cast into *broad* and *thin Ingots*, and then beaten out to the Thickness of half an Inch, for the Convenience of Packing ; and for what Goods are Shipp'd from *London*, or any of the before-mentioned Places, in *Cask*, the same may be done in *thicker Ingots*, or *Bars of Bullion* ; whereby we Propose, from all Places of *England*, one reckoned with another, to pick up, and *Melt down*, near *One Hundred Thousand Pounds* a Week, which is much more than they can *Coynd* Weekly ; so that it will be time enough to begin this Trade Two or Three Months after the *Englisb* have begun their *Coyndage*, against which time nothing shall be Wanting on Your Majesty's Part.

### French King.

I have heard this Discourse with all the Delight that can be imagin'd, and never did more pleasing Patience possess my Mind :



Mind: I confess, the Project, and the Methods of it, seems a very feasible Enterprize; nor can I foresee how it should miscarry, if your *Correspondents* in *England* be so prudent to keep all things secret, then I question not but to meet with Success.

### First Minister of State.

Your Majesty may depend on't; we have taken effectual Care of that; for if Your Majesty approve of the Project, and will be at the Charge, we doubt not their Secrecy and Faithful Service.

First, Here are Forty Eight *Correspondents* settled in various Places Abroad, who know nothing one of another, nor of our Designs; so that there is no doubt to be made of their Discovering, or Writing any thing to *England* to prevent it, if Furnish'd as followeth.

We propose to supply each and every of these Forty Eight *Correspondents* Abroad, with *Five Thousand Pounds* a piece, to Trade to and from *England*, (all the Places before-mentioned being in Peace with the *English*) which Forty Eight *Correspondents* so supply'd, will take up *Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Pounds*, the Value of which, when sent in Goods from the several Places where they reside, to our *Agents* in *England*, we have contracted for to be done on these Terms and Conditions. (*viz.*)

All and every of them are to have One Third Part of the Profits their Goods make in *England*; our *Agents* or *Merchants* in *England*, another Third; and Your Majesty the Remainder. We have also agreed, They shall have the same Proportion of the Profits made of such Goods as shall be sent them from *England*, *Bullion* only excepted: And if their Parts of the Profits, inward and outward, do not arise to *Five Hundred*  
B
Pounds

*Pounds a Man per Annum*, Your Majesty is to make it up so much to all and every of them, as well to those in *England*, as to those in other Places Abroad; for which, they are to deliver up a fair and true Account, together with the **Principal Stock**, and Your Majesty's Proportion of the Profits, when demanded; and are to keep all Secrets we shall entrust them with. And as it hath been already mentioned, we have contriv'd the Business so, that none of our *Correspondents* Abroad, nor in *England*, knows one of another, but only those that are to deal directly together, and they know not the bottom of this Design; neither shall the *Agents* that are to be concerned in the several Counties of *England*, know one of another, each being to keep to the particular Person he is to deal with from thence to *London*; so that we look upon the *Five Hundred Pounds per Annum* to be a sufficient Obligation to oblige all Persons that shall be concerned to Secresie and Industry; whereby we doubt not but to strip the *English* of their *Coyne* as soon as 'tis well Coyned; for which, we have given our *Correspondents* their positive Orders, to pack up *Four Hundred Pounds* Worth of *Bullion*, in every *Hundred Pounds* Worth of other Goods they shall Ship from thence; so that by one Return of *Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Pounds*, we shall draw away *Nine Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pounds*, Five or Six of which Draughts will effectually do our Business: Besides, Your Majesty may conclude, That by the Working *Silver-Smiths*, and the Exporters of *Bullion*, there will be above a *Million* of their *Coyne* Melted down in Twelve Months Time after it comes forth.

### French King.

My Lords, If this Project takes effect, you may live to hear of another Revolution; for though they over-witted me in **That**, I may chance to over-Reach them in **This**, especially if they carry on their *Coyne* so, as to leave an Opportunity to empower me.

But

( II )

But one of my great Fears is, That either amongst that *Parliament*, or the *People*, there may be some such Thinking Men, whose fore-sight may lead them to consider the Circumstances and State of *Europe*, and especially the Stratagems and Inclinations of the *Court of France*, at this time ; who cannot but imagin, we shall be ready to Contrive, and Engage in any Project which seems rational to Wound our *Enemies*, having so many of them. And, amongst other Thoughts, may un-luckily light of such Notions as these ; the Probability and Possibility of which being Discovered, and made Publick to the *English People* and *Parliament*, may thereby prevent us from putting this Design in Practice ; and if this should happen, I should either think my self Accurst, or imagin that some of you, or those you imploy, have Betray'd me : I confess this is one of my great Fears, for I'm so in Love with this Project, being confident, if it takes effect, it will enable me to do all I desire, so that I'd rather give *Forty Millions of Livers* than it should be Discover'd.

Second Minister.

Your Majesty's Judgment and Prudence in all things is very great, and there is much Reason in what You say ; nevertheless, I am of Opinion, There is not One Man in Ten Millions of Men can think of such a Contrivance ; or, however, — That it should be thus laid in the *Court of France* ; for, unless he knew what's done and acted here, he must be a strange sort of *Fortune-Teller* that can predict and fore-tell our Designs and Proceedings in Council ; although, I confess, he that loves his *King* and *Country*, and is of a generous Spirit, will spare no Pains, but Think and Write, and Write and Think of all the Ways he can to serve them. — But the Ways and Methods of Managing this Project, and also the Enterprize it self, seem to me impossible to enter into any



Man's Head, unless he was engaged with an Enemy, as Your Majesty is; or else, was in Council with us: Who can imagine any Man should have the fore-sight to know our Designs? I think Your Majesty need not question this.

### French King.

My next Doubt, and the greatest of my Fears is, That the *Parliament of England* will not Vote, *The Coynage of their Money of the same Fineness and Weight, and Value it as it was before*; because they very well know it hath been lately *Melted down*, and therefore must conclude it will be so serv'd again, especially in these times, when all *Europe* hath such Occasions for *Silver*: My Reason is this, because, in all Parts of *Europe*, except *Holland, Portugal, Spain, and Italy*.—— It is worth 20 *per Cent.* more now than the Price the *English* formerly Valued it at; so that if they consider the Affairs and State of *Europe*, they must needs know and understand there is a great Alteration, and a vast Difference, to what there was in Times of Peace, amongst all Nations; so that how the *People* or *Parliament* should be of that Opinion, and take that Method in their *New Coynage*, seems to me a Doubt, they will not Vote it, as afore-said.

### Third Minister.

We hope there will be no Occasion for Your Majesty to doubt it, having taken much Care, and used all the Endeavours that possibly may be to impose upon *Them*, and the *People of England*; that 'tis absolutely necessary to Coyn their *New Money of the same Weight, Value, and Fineness, it formerly was*; and we knew very well, by good Advice, before the *Parliament* met, that all, or most of the unthinking People, were fix'd and grounded in that Belief; and to confirm them and their *Parliament* in that Opinion, we have caused several



several Sorts of *Printed Papers* to be Publish'd, and spread amongst them, to assert and prove the Necessity of it; in which Papers our *Agents* have endeavoured to exert and prove,

*First*, The great Loss they suffer by the Exchange of Money; alleadging, if they Owe, they must either Pay or Break.

*Secondly*, The Destruction and Ruin it will bring upon their Trade, if they should either abase their Cohn, make it less, or raise it in its Value.

*Thirdly*, That all *Foreigners* will Value it according to its Weight and Fineness, and will make that the Measure of their Trade with them, and will Sell them their Goods, and be Paid for them accordingly.

*Fourthly*, That if they should Raise the Value of their New Cohn, all Foreign Exchange of Money will rise proportionably.

*Fifthly*, That if they should Raise the Value of their Cohn, such an Alteration or Change of it will Defraud the Nobility, Sentry, and Landlords of their Rents.

*Sixthly*, That all the Revenues of the Crown, with the Revenues of the Church, will be Lessened: — All their Estates and Wearables will be Dearer: — All their Officers and Souldiers, by Land and Sea; their Servants, Labourers, and Workmens Wages, with all Gifts, and publick Settlements of Charity, will be Diminished. — These, and a Multitude more of such like Arguments, we have, by our *Agents*, strenuously prest upon the People, which have taken that good Effect, there is scarce One in a Thousand but believes them, insomuch, that they have

have and do maintain these Inferences in all common Discourse, and have labour'd extremely to perswade their *Parliament* into the same Opinion and Belief: All which things seem rational enough to them that take the Circumstances of *Europe* to be the same now, they were in **Times of Peace**; and especially such as know not, nor think nothing of the Design we have to drain them of their **Money**, and how easily it may be done: — And, therefore, I doubt not but Your Majesty will hear very speedily that *Parliament* hath Voted it accordingly; — and the next thing will be, to fall a **Coyning**.

### French King.

That would be the Welcomest News that ever came at *Paris*, *Marli*, or *Versailles*, since these **Wars** began; — when I hear such a Vote is past in *England*, as I said before, I shall have some Hopes to see another **Revolution**, and a further **Conquest** in **EUROPE** than I have yet made; for ever since this Project of **Draining** them of their **Money** was first mov'd, I have always thought the *Parliament of England* could never serve Me more, nor Themselves and the People less, than in this thing of the **Value of their Coin**, which, when done, and Establish'd at the Price their **Bill's Money** formerly was at, will leave me sufficient room to cut 'em out New Work.

### Fourth Minister.

Of all the Projects Your Majesty hath Enterpriz'd, either by *Land* or *Sea*, since the **Wars** began, in my Opinion, there are none of 'em to be compar'd with This, for **Sinking Your Enemies Speedily, Secretly, and Certainly**.

And though You drain all the *Ware-Houses* in *France*, and empty every particular *Province* of its **Goods**, to bring **Silver** and **Gold** in great Plenty into Your Kingdom, nevertheless, if it

be at high Rates, the doing thereof will Impoverish and Weaken Your Enemies, and will add very much to Strengthen and Enrich You; for when they're divested of their **Silver**, though they'd give *Eight Shillings* an Ounce for it, they cannot have it again. — And considering how we have order'd and contriv'd the Management of this Enterprize, the most that ever Your Majesty will disburse to effect it, will not exceed *250000 Pounds*; I mean so much for a **Principal**, or **Stock** to accomplish it. — And if there was no Advantage, nor any Profits to be made by Imploying so much *Money* in Importing and Exporting Goods to and from *England*, nevertheless, all the Sallaries Your Majesty hath to Pay to *116 Agents*, at *500 Pounds* a Man, to go through and effect this Design, comes but to *58000 Pounds*; of which, the Profits inwards and outwards of *240000 Pounds*, imploy'd as aforesaid, cannot make less than one Third of the *58000 Pounds*, which is *19333 Pounds, 6 Shillings and 8 Pence*: — So that Your Majesty's Charges will be reduc'd to *38666 Pounds, 13 Shillings and 4 Pence*, which will be all the Cost You will be at, totally to drain and divest the *English* of their **New Coynd Money**, by carrying on of this Design. — But then if Your Majesty pleaseth to consider, as You signifi'd before, the Difference there is in *France*, and most Parts of *Europe*, between the Prices of **Silver** of their Standard, at *5 Shillings and 3 Pence* an Ounce, admitting one of their *Crowns* pass but for *5 Shillings*, will be at least *12 Pence* an Ounce for the Difference; so that the Question will be this, If, by this Project, in *12 Months* time after their **Money** is **New Coynd**, You drain them of *5 Millions*, What Advantage will that make Your Majesty over and above all Your Cost and Charges, allowing every Ounce of their *Money* to afford You *12 Pence* Profit? Answer: *929075 Pounds, 4 Shillings and 8 Pence* clear of all Charges, together with the Principal Stock return'd again. And this You may conclude for infallible Truth; — When You have got the **Commanding Purse**, You must and will have the  
Com=



10  
Convincing **SHED**; and how easily it is to make  
our Master of that **But** by Executing this Design, and  
I think there wants no further Proof nor Demonstration.

### French King

*My Lords*, I approve extremely well of what hath been said  
and done in this Affair; I have nothing more to say at present  
but to recommend it to your Care; — and shall daily desire  
to hear of a Vote pass by the *Parliament of England* for *Coyning*  
their *New Money* of the *Standard* Weight and  
Value their *Old Money* formerly was; which being  
done, I have nothing more to add; But then have at all.

*Brussels Decemb. 15th, 1695.*

*Another.*

**I** Received the Abstract you sent me of the Consultations and  
Debates between the French King and His Council, concern-  
ing the New Coyne and Coyning, which is intended to be made in  
England; — and according to your Desire have transmitted it  
to England, in Order to be Printed, for the Information of the  
People and Parliament, so that I have great Reason to  
hope they will govern themselves in this Affair, and take such  
Methods in Valuing their New Coyne, as to prevent all the  
Designs their Enemies have upon them concerning it, which appears  
by the foregoing Abstract, to be so laid and contrived for the  
Ruin and Destruction of the English People, that such great Care  
be taken to annihilate their Design in this Project, that all the  
English, but most of Europe, will be great Sufferers, if not de-  
stroyed by the French Arms: Which God of His Mercy prevent.

**F I N I S**